

REMARKS

Initially, in the Office Action dated April 9, 2003, the Examiner has objected to claims 1, 2, and 5-8 because of informalities. Further, claims 1 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,736,933 (Segal). Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Segal in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,952,932 (Sørensen).

The Examiner has allowed claims 10-12, and indicates that claims 2-7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By the present response, Applicants have canceled claims 1, 8, and 9. Applicants have amended claims 2, 3, 5, and 6 to further clarify the invention. Applicants have submitted new claims 13-18 for consideration by the Examiner. Claims 2-7, and 10-18 remain pending in the present application.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 2 and 5-8 have been objected to because of informalities. Claims 1 and 8 have been cancelled. Applicants have amended the other claims to further clarify the invention, and to incorporate subject matter deemed allowable by the Examiner, and respectfully request that these objections be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

Claims 1 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Segal. Applicants have cancelled these claims therefore rendering these rejections moot.

35 U.S.C. 103 Rejections

Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Segal and further in view of Sørensen. Applicants have cancelled this claim therefore rendering this rejection moot.

New Claims

Applicants have submitted new claims 13-18 for consideration by the Examiner and submit that these claims do not contain any prohibited new matter and are patentable over the cited references.

Segal discloses a system in which, when an arbitrary CP node 112 of a redundant central processor 108 consisting of a plurality of CP nodes 112 receives a message from an input node 114, it stores the message in an internal memory 304 and a common memory 110, and then sends an acknowledgement to the input 114. The arbitrary first CP node 112 is monitored by a predetermined second CP node 112. If a periodical "handshakes" signal from the first CP node 112 is stopped, the second CP node 112 judges that the first CP node 112 is non-operational. The second CP node then checks whether the message associated with the first CP node 112 is stored in the common memory 110. If the message is stored, the second CP node 112 transmits the message to an RF controller node 106 in place of the first CP node 112.

Regarding claims 13 and 16, Applicants submit that Segal does not disclose or suggest the limitations in the combination of each of these claims of, inter alia, judging that a failure occurs in another inter-network apparatus when detecting that a signal to be monitored or confirmed is not received, or stopping transmitting of the

signal to be transmitted periodically, or stopping transmitting of the signal to be transmitted periodically to thereby cause the other inter-link apparatus to detect the occurrence of the failure. Segal does not disclose or suggest these limitations in the claims of the present application. Although Segal's disclosed second CP node 112 receives the periodic "handshakes" from the first CP node 112 to check the operability of the first CP node, Segal does not disclose or suggest that the second CP node intentionally stops a signal which may be transmitted from the second CP node to the first CP node for the purpose of notifying the first CP node of an occurrence of a failure in the first CP node or on a LAN. The portions in Segal cited by the Examiner merely describe that the second CP node 112 judges whether or not the first CP node 112 is operational by receiving the periodic "handshakes" from the first CP node 112. Segal does not disclose or suggest whether or not the first CP node 112 transmits a signal periodically to the first CP node. Even if a signal were transmitted periodically from the second CP node to the first CP node in Segal, Segal does not disclose or suggest the second CP node positively stopping transmitting of the signal, as recited in the claims of the present application.

Regarding claims 14, 15, 17 and 18, Applicants submit that these claims are dependent on one of claims 13 and 16 and, therefore, are patentable at least for the same reasons noted regarding these claims.

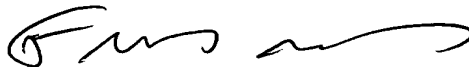
Accordingly, Applicants submit that Segal does not disclose, suggest or render obvious the limitations in the combination of each of claims 13-18 of the present application. Applicants respectfully request that these new claims be entered and allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 2-7 and 10-18 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of such claims is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (referencing 500.39008X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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